THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) No such assessment has been made.

(c) Safety standards have been specified in IS 7898-1981 specification for manually operated chaff cutter (Ist Revision) and IS 11459-1985 for power operated chaff cutter.

Crisis in the foundries due to acute shortage of pig iron

2215. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis in the foundries particularly in the Northern States in the country which are facing closure affecting over 50 lakh people due to acute shortage of pig iron;

(b) if so, what is the gap between demand and supply of pig iron during 1987, 1988 and 1989 (till date);

(c) what is the quantity of pig iron imported by the canalising agencies during 1988 to meet the demand; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the situation and also for a long-term solution to the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) The situation of shortage in pig iron has eased on account of improvement in its supply during the current year.

(b) and (c) The demand is assessed financial year-wise.

The gap between demand and supply of pig iron and actual imports are as follows:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Gap bteween demand and domestic supply	Actual imports (Provisional)
1986-87	1.45	0.45
1987-88	2.94	0.34
1988-89	3.97	1.66

Imports in these years were less then the gap primarily because of the high landed cost. The quantum of imports went up in 1988-89 on account of reduction in import duty.

(d) (i)SAIL has been asked to increase production of pig iron though it is not financially attractive for SAIL to do so;

(ii) Customs duty on import of pig iron has been reduced to bring down the landed cost;

(iii) Foreign exchange provision has been made for import of pig iron to augment domestic availability; and

(iv) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant would start production of pig iron during the year.

Assessment of poverty areas and prosperity areas

2216. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to find out the ratio of workers to population in the rural and urban areas and the areas considered to be poverty areas and prosperity areas;

(b) what percentage of the rural workers in agricultural labour and industrial labour;

(c) by what percentage the purchasing power of the rural areas improved during the Seventh Five Year Plan period over the Sixth Five Year Plan and how does it compare with the purchasing power of the urban areas; and

(d) what achievements have been made with the implementation of labour intensive programmes in the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fire fighting equipments in Government building in Delhi

2217. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Government buildings in Delhi which were required to be provided with fire fighting equipments by the end of June, 1989;

(b) what is the number of Government buildings which have ben provided with fire fighting equipments by the end of June, 1989; and

(c) when the process to provide fire fighting equipments in the Government buildings in the city was actually started and what are the reasons for delay in providing the facility in the remaining buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 31 high-rise Government buildings under the charge of the Ministry of Urban Development and maintained by the Central PWD were found to be deficient in fire safety requirements.

(b) and (c) Estimates for augmentation/provision of fire safety measures in a large number of the buildings have already been sanctioned. Recently, an Electrical Circle under a Superintending Engineer has been sanctioned in the Central P.W.D. for the specific purpose of execution of fire safety measures in all the identified buildings. The works will be taken up shortly and it is expected that these will be completed in about a year's time.

Cultivation of Kesri Dal

2218. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States producing Kesri Dal in the country and what is the estimated production in each of these States;

(b) whether, in view of its consumption causing serious health hazards even physical disability, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had, sometime in 1982 submitted a proposal to the Government to ban its cultivation and to propagate alternate crops;

(c) whether a study team set up to suggest remedial measures for Kesri Dal problems, had in its report submitted to the Government suggested ban on the export of Kesri Dal and its sale in the Mandis; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for delay in taking a decision to ban the cultivation of Kesri Dal in the country which has dangerious effects on the health of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The names of the States and their estimated production of Kesri Dal during 1987-88 is as under:—

State	Production ('000 Tonnes)
Bihar	265.4
Madhya Pradesh	198.1
Maharashtra	18.5
West Bengal	35.9
TOTAL:	517.9